

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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JOSHUA TOWNS,

Plaintiff,

v.

MICHEAL DITTMAN, at al.

Defendants.

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ORDER

Case No. 17-cv-912-bbc

Plaintiff Joshua Towns, a prisoner in the custody of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, has submitted a proposed civil action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has filed a certified copy of a trust fund account statement in support of the motion for leave to proceed without prepaying the filing fee. After considering the motion and supporting documentation, the court concludes that plaintiff qualifies for indigent status.

Even when a prisoner litigant qualifies for indigent status, the litigant must pay a portion of the fee returned by the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Using information for the relevant time period from plaintiff's trust fund account statement, I calculate plaintiff's initial partial filing fee to be \$103.96. For this case to proceed, plaintiff must submit this amount on or before December 27, 2017.

With the complaint, plaintiff also filed a motion to use release account funds to pay the entire fee for filing this case. (Dkt. #3). However, with the exception of initial partial payments, federal courts lack the authority to tell state officials whether and to what extent a prisoner should be able to withdraw money from a release account. Plaintiff cannot use the release account funds to pay the entire balance of the \$350.00 filing fee, and so plaintiff's motion will be denied.

## ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that,

1. Plaintiff Joshua Towns is assessed \$103.96 as an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case. Plaintiff is to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$103.96 or advise the court in writing why plaintiff is not able to submit the assessed amount on or before December 27, 2017. If plaintiff does not have enough money to make the initial partial payment from plaintiff's regular account, plaintiff should arrange with authorities to pay the remainder from plaintiff's release account.

2. Plaintiff Joshua Towns's motion for use of release account funds to pay the entire filing fee in this case (Dkt. #3) is DENIED.

3. If, by December 27, 2017, plaintiff fails to make the initial partial payment or show cause for failure to do so, plaintiff will be held to have withdrawn this action voluntarily and the case will be closed without prejudice to plaintiff filing this case at a later date.

4. No further action will be taken in this case until the clerk's office receives plaintiff's initial partial filing fee as directed above and the court has screened the complaint as required by the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Once the screening process is complete, a separate order will issue.

Entered this 5th day of December, 2017.

BY THE COURT:

/s/  
PETER OPPENEER  
Magistrate Judge